IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Kevin A. Shea et al.

Application No.: To be assigned

Filed: Herewith

Confirmation No.: To be assigned

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR POSITIONING

GUIDE ARMS IN A STRIP FABRICATION

ASSEMBLY

Examiner: To be assigned Art Unit: To be assigned

Attorney Reference No.: 2340-67566

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV339203492US, addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA, 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Attorney for Applicant(s) / Canal h. Maps

Date Mailed January 16, 2004

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. BOX 1450 **ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 7 of this paper, and include the attached two Replacement sheets and two Annotated Sheets.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.